

## Message Text

MRN: 1975TEGUCI001546 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000001 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE  
ADP000  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01546 02 OF 02 190153Z

66  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AGR-05 AID-05

COME-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 /071 W  
----- 085258

O P 182347Z APR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9793  
SIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
USCINCSO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 1546

COSTA RICA. " THEOFFICIAL SOURCES QUOTED HERE,"  
(MANAGUA) SAID "THAT IN THE MEETING THE PRESIDENTS  
...WILL EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT ... OF LOPEZ." IN  
ANOTHER FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY JUAN RAMON ARDON, EL  
CRONISTA QUOTES AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE AS SAYING THAT  
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL STORY HAS NOT HAD ANY SIGNIFI-  
CANT EFFECT ON HONDURAN LIFE AND THAT THE OPERATIONS  
OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT CONTINUE NORMALLY. THE  
ARTICLE ADDITIONALLY SAYS "IF THIS SUPPOSED BRIBERY,  
(OF WHICH GENERAL LOPEZ HAS BEEN PROVEN TO BE  
GUILTLESS), HAS DAMAGED THE NATIONAL HONOR, AT NO  
MOMENT CAN IT BE AS SERIOUS AS THOSE ALARMISTS AND  
OPPORTUNISTS WHO WISH TO DENIGRATE THE GOVERNMENT.."  
IT IS LIKELY "THAT IN THIS BRIBERY THERE IS IMPLICATED  
ANOTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IS USING  
THIS MEASURE TO FORCE HONDURAS TO REDUCE THE BANANA  
TAX."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 01546 02 OF 02 190153Z

8. ALSO PRESENT ON EL CRONISTA'S PAGE ONE IS THE REPRINT OF AN MAY 14, 1974 CABLE TO MINECON BENNATON FROM A CITIZENS' GROUP IN LA CEIBA OPPOSING THE BANANA TAX. THE ARTICLE'S AUTHOR, GERARDO ALFREDO MEDRANO, SAYS THAT HE IS NOT ACCUSING ANYBODY BUT THAT HE MERELY WISHES TO SHOW THE RPESSURES APPLIED BY HONDURANS ON THE GOH TO REDUCE THE TAX. HE IMPLIES THAT ANY SUCH REDUCTION WAS CAUSED BY SUCH PRESSURES RATHER THAN BY BRIBERY BY UB.

9. APPEARING AMONG EL CRONISTA'S FIVE FRONT PAGE ITEMS (ALL DEFENDING LOPEZ) CONCERNING THE UB SCANDAL IS A STORY BY IRMA SANTOS HEADED "UB INTENDS TO CONVER THE ARMED RORCES INTO ITS OWN INSTRUMENT." SUBHEADINGS SAY: "HISTORICALLY THE FRUIT COMPANIES HAVE BRIBED LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS," "UB IS VILGAR AND UNFAITHFUL," AND "THE FRUIT COMPANY LOOKED FOR A WAY TO BOLIGE THE ARMED FORCES TO MAKE CHANGES BENEFITTING COMPANY INTERESTS." SANTOS BEGINS BY QUOTING SUTRAFSKO (STANDARD FRUIT CO UNION) PRESIDENT NAPOLEON ACEVEDO AS SAYING THAT UB IS TRYING TO PROVOKE CHAOS IN HONDURAS AND THAT THE COMPANY HAS ALWAYS BRIBED LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS. ACEVEDO SAID THAT SUTRAFSKO WILL PROPOSE A RESOLUTION AT THE FESITRANH CONGRESS APRIL 18-20) CALLING FOR THE GOH TO TAKE "RADICAL STEPS" AGAINST THE FRUIT COMPANIES. IN THE LONG EDITORIAL BY HOSTILIO LOBO, EL CRONISTA DEVELOPES THE THESIS THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE USG AND MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES IS VERY CLOSE, WHILE SAYING "WE DO NOT INTEND TO SAY THAT IN THE SPECIFIC CASE OF THE UB AFFAIR THE USG IS INVOLVED." ALL OF THE PAPER'S ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS PRESENT THE VIEW THAT LOPEZ IS INNOCENT AND THAT THE WHOLE SCANDAL IS A RESULT OF A SINISTER PLOT BY UB.

10. TIEMPO OF APRIL 18 PROVIDES NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE UB SCANDAL. ITS ONLY RELATED ITEMS ARE A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE AUGUST 21, 1974 AGREEMENT ON THE BANANA TAX BETWEEN UB AND THE GOH AND THE JOINT DECLARATION BY THE NATIONALIST AND LIBERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 01546 02 OF 02 190153Z

PARTIES.

11. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY PERCEIVES A GROWING ACCEP- TANCE ON THE PART OF INFLUENTIAL HONDURANS OF THE QUILT OF GENERAL LOPEZ IN THE UB BRIBERY CASE. ALSO, WITH THE PRINTING OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES'

DECLARATION AND LA PRENSA'S EDITORIAL AND NEWSTORIES  
APRIL 18 WE SEE THE FIRST PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS THAT  
LOPEZ SHOULD BE REMOVED. CONTRARY TO EL CRONISTA'S  
VIEWS, THERE IS A CERTAIN DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY  
WITHIN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND LITTLE WORK IS  
BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE MINISTRIES. RICARDO ZUNIGA,  
NATIONALIST PARTY LEADER, TOLD POLOFF APRIL 17 THAT  
HE ACCEPTED LOPEZ'S GUILT AND THAT HIS DAYS ARE  
NUMBERED. HE ALSO ADDED THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF  
PRO-LOPEZ, ANTI UB ARTICLES WAS THE RESULT OF PAY-  
OFFS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF EL CRONISTA  
HAVE LONG BEEN RUMORED TO RECEIVE REGULAR GOVERNMENT  
STIPENDS. LABOFF HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT FESITRANH

LEADERSHIP INTENDS TO BLUNT SUTRAFSCO RESOLUTION  
CALLING FOR STRONG ACTION AGAINST UB.

12. DEMONSTRATION ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR APRIL 17  
CALLED OFF. SOME INDICATION THAT DEMONSTRATION  
WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK.  
SANCHEZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TEGUCI01546  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** CORE1  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** TEGUCIGALPA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750434/aaaabftm.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Locator:** ADS TEXT UNRETRIEVABLE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <17 Sep 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** n/a  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC SIA WASHDC USIA USCINCSO GUATEMALA MANAGUA SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006